

**MADISON COUNTY LEPC
(Local Emergency Planning Committee)**

MINUTES

April 17, 2008 7:00 PM

Ennis Fire Hall

Ennis, Montana

CHAIRMAN/VICE-CHAIRMAN

Identification of attendees

Melinda Tichenor	MVH – CCC
Jane Yecny	RVAS – RVH – MAD SAR
Barbara Bradshaw	Ennis Ambulance
Steve Orr	MCSO – VCRFD
Brad Bradshaw	Ennis Ambulance – MVRFD
Scott McClintic	MVRFD
Shawn Christensen	MVRFD
Wayne Redfield	LEPC
Steve DiGiovanna	MC Communications – DES 2
Christopher Mumme	MC DES1
Pamela Boone	3 R Red Cross
Toni James	VCRFD
Brendon Dale	TBVFD
Kerri Strosheim	ARC DAT

Approval of Minutes – Minutes were approved as written

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ∇ Citizens Corp Council Report (M. Tichenor)
- ∇ **Emergency Management Dept. Report (C. Mumme)**

Drought report: On April 14th I attended the 2nd Drought Task Force meeting in Dillon. I am happy to report that Madison County has been taken off the drought status for now. The snow pack in the mountain ranges from 100 to 150 % of normal and the precipitation for March was 70% of normal but from April 1-9, Madison County is anywhere from 150 to 220 percent over normal. For the remainder of April, the forecast is cool and wet. Our temperatures have been 8 – 10 degrees below normal for April.

Fire Districts: During the first MadCo Fire Chiefs council, the boundaries for the fire districts were discussed. My department has them mapped out and the department heads and I will be meeting within the next week to go over any issues, if none, then the petitions will be drawn and the respective fire departments will take them around to be signed locally and any out of town owners will be contacted by my department (me).

False Alarm: April 15th at the commissioners meeting, I brought up the next step, which is the 2nd reading of the false alarm ordinance, and where we want to go with that. It has been slated for next week April 29th, to be given the go ahead by the County Attorney, or to wait for the Attorney General's decision.

Grant update: Grant for \$4500 from Helper is submitted and will hear by May 15th for CERT. Also, the Town Pump grant for \$4500 for CERT has gotten past the first viewing and bumped upstairs for a decision.

HLS-CAM: The classes were given on April 1-3 and were very successful, for further details, please contact my office.

MadCo Fire Chiefs Council: The first ever Madco fire Chiefs council was held on the 9th of April and it was very successful and we plan to have quarterly meetings.

Current Projects:

- Sheridan realignment of Fire District, Harrison & Ennis
- New Sub-division reg's
- Annex for flooding & Wildfire
- Updating resource book (Steve Orr working with me on that)
- Emergency address numbering (starting with HWY 359)

Upcoming Events from this office: On May 15th at 10 O'clock, a Skywarn class will be given by Dan Reilly at the MVRFD Station 1. It is a very good class

▽ **Communications Coordinator Report (Steve DiGiovanna)**

Popular Dispatcher Retires

After nearly 20 years with the County Sheriff's Office, Communications Officer Casey Baril has decided to call it quits. Recently, Casey has been hampered by care concerns for her daughter and important family needs. Casey began her department career on March 31st, 1988 - and retired from the department on March 15th, 2008. Casey, known for her calm and cool radio presence - and competency with office duties, came from a law enforcement background in the Vallejo / Martinez area of California. Janet Fortner, Communications Center Supervisor said, "for me as a supervisor, I will sorely miss her experience, dedication and quick wit - and her laughter and caring for the well being of others."

Casey has said she will miss the public, the people she worked with, the "excitement" and the satisfaction of a job well done. We will miss her as well. "the single biggest problem in communications is the illusion that it has taken place"

Madison County Fire Chiefs Council

On April 9th, the first Madison County Fire Chief Council convened at the Courthouse in Virginia City. The meeting was held in the Jury Room and was facilitated by the department of DES / Communications (Chris Mumme and Steve DiGiovanna). All seven of the county fire agencies were well represented at this gathering. Those in attendance included:

Twin Bridges Fire Chief Lloyd Carlson and Captain Brendan Dale

Sheridan Fire Chief Ted Woirhaye

Alder Fire Chief Dan Doornbos and Asst. Chief Steve Gilman

Virginia City Fire Chief Roger Williams and Asst. Chief Robert Erdall

Madison Valley Rural Fire Chief Shawn Christensen

Harrison Fire Chief Joe Husar and Asst Chief John Armstrong

Yellowstone Club FD Chief Steve Hauck and Captain Jesse Thrush

Sheriff Office / IMT representative Captain Steve Orr

DES 1 Chris Mumme

DES 2 Steve DiGiovanna

Agenda Topics included:

- a. Fire Department boundary adjustments and assigning fire protection to undesignated areas
- b. Mobile Command Unit trailer availability and the use of the newly formed IMT group
- c. Spring run off and local flooding preparation and ideas
- d. Upcoming live burn training in Sheridan on April 13th

- e. DES 1 and DES 2 operations, DES / Communications - county emergency response coordination responsibilities and training
- f. Communications – new IM towers, new dispatchers, frequencies and county numbering considerations
- g. Fire Dept. specialized equipment availability and department capabilities

Open Discussion

Alder Assistant Fire Chief Steve Gilman pointed out that the local fire departments are having difficulty recruiting and retaining firefighters.

DES 1 Chris Mumme agreed to work on this issue through the DES office.

Madison Valley Rural Chief Shawn Christiansen noted that due to fire service responsibilities and job hazards, the firefighters are more like

“unpaid professionals” rather than an occasional gathering of community volunteers.

DES 2 Steve DiGiovanna mentioned that a partial answer / quick fix to the dilemma of decreased firefighter response is the need to request mutual aid sooner for significant or “working incidents” – and additional reliance on your neighboring department for resources and help.

There was general discussionary agreement related to the need and desire to have the Fire Chief meetings on a quarterly basis - with the possibility of multi-agency exercises and drills being conducted as well. Future meetings will be facilitated through the DES office.

Yellowstone Chief Steve Hauck discussed a willingness by his department to participate more often in county functions and responses.

The Communication Department will facilitate a County Fire Department newsletter to include information about significant responses, new equipment, training options and general fire suppression information. This newsletter can then be distributed to all fire agencies and firefighters via electronic mail.

OLD BUSINESS

- ▽ PDM Grant – PDM Update: Nothing to report at this time
- ▽ False Alarm Ordinance:
See attached Emergency Management Dept Report
- ▽ Madison County Fire Chief Council:
See attached Emergency Management Dept Report

NEW BUSINESS

- Kerri Strasheim – Red Cross Representative
Kerri introduced herself and gave an overview of the Red Cross procedures, practices and what they can provide. See attached handout.
- Steve DiGiovanna discussed using CERT Team member to set up base camp and shelters in the event of an incident.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING –

Thursday May 15, 2008 at Twin Bridges Fire Hall at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURN